



Swim with Humpback Whales, August to October

Humpback whales (*Metaptera novaeangliae*) are one of the larger baleen whale species and adults range in length from 12 to 16 mtrs (39 to 52 ft). The humpback has a distinctive body shape, with long pectoral fins and a knobby head. It is well known for breaching and other surface behaviours. Males produce a complex song lasting 10 to 20 minutes, which they repeat for hours at a time; parts of this song are audible to human ears in the water.

From June to November an estimated 30,000 humpback whales migrate along the Ningaloo Coast on their way to and from their breeding and birthing grounds in Exmouth Gulf and sheltered waters north as far as the Kimberley.

From August 2016 guests at Sal Salis will have the opportunity to swim with humpback whales.

The season will run from 01 August to 31 October each year and our Whale Swim experience will begin with the 30 minute transfer from Sal Salis to Tantabiddi Boat Ramp. Once on board you will be kitted out with a wet-suit & snorkel gear; enjoy morning tea as you motor out of protected waters and into the Indian Ocean.

The whales are easy to spot as they breach, lunge, slap the water and blow. They will continually move so swimming is required during interaction; you will need to be a confident swimmer, able to snorkel and swim freestyle. The whales are found in the open ocean so you may be swimming in current and swell.

Government regulations are yet to set a maximum time to spend with one whale, however the real duration of each swim will be determined by the whales willingness to be seen and interact. A maximum of just 5 guests can be in the water at one time.

You may be lucky enough to swim with more than one whale during the course of the day, however you should set your own pace and may choose to observe whales from the deck of the boat too.

The minimum age for a child is 10 years old, however we may consider younger children if the parents are confident with their ability to snorkel in the open ocean.

Parents are responsible for their children at all times both on the boat and in the water. Children can participate as an 'observer' however one parent must accompany the children on-board the boat at all times.

In addition to swimming with humpback whales, the crew & the Sal Salis spotter plane will be searching for opportunities to interact with whale sharks, manta rays, turtles, dolphins, dugongs and sea birds. Depending on the day we may return to the calm waters of Ningaloo Reef for lunch & snorkelling. Return to camp will be in the mid afternoon.

You will need to bring:

- ◆ Towel from Sal Salis (this is provided by the lodge on your arrival day)
- ◆ A few additional layers for use on board as it can get cold in between swims
- ◆ Hat, sunglasses and other personal items
- ◆ GoPro an underwater cameras may be used, however poles are not allowed.

FOR INFORMATION & BOOKINGS

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Mon to Fri 8.30am to 5pm



SAL SALIS
NINGALOO REEF

